

Serial Number **09/852,082**

- Page 4, lines 9-18
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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1.

The rejection of amended claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully traversed on the grounds that neither U.S. Patent No. 6,274,955 (Sato) nor U.S. Patent No. 4,864,276 discloses or suggests, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, a fixing structure for a miniature vibration motor in which the vibration motor is attached to a base plate by electrically connecting points on a circuit board of the motor with at least one connecting point on the base plate, *the base plate connecting point being located adjacent a **seat hole** to facilitate positioning of the circuit board, provide clearance for electronic elements on the circuit board, and also provide clearance for the shaft extending through the circuit board,* thereby minimizing the thickness of the fixing arrangement.

In the last paragraph on page 3 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that the Sato patent discloses a seat plate formed with a seat hole "where lands 62 [are] located." It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misinterpreted Fig. 4 of the Sato patent. The area surrounded by "main body lands 62" is not a hole. Instead, as is clear from Fig. 3, the area is a solid part of the base plate 9 and does not include any sort of seat hole. Instead, the area is simply the inside of a circle defined by the main body lands 62, which are used to secure the motor housing 18 to base plate 9, and line lands 63, which provide electrically connect the base plate and the circuit board.

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Since the Tribbey patent also does not disclose the claimed seat hole, but rather discloses an arrangement requiring conventional leads 54,55 and in which the motor housing 30 is fixed to an apparently solid base plate 24 (there being no need for a seat hole given the positioning of the circuit board within the motor housing), it is respectfully submitted that the ordinary artisan could not have combined the teachings of the Satoh and Tribbey patents to obtain the claimed invention, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bj' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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